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The NDSU Extension Service is pleased to be a partner in bringing you the 2003 issue of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. This edition contains valuable information about crops, livestock and economics as well as detailed information for each county in the state. Producers, educators, decision-makers and others interested in North Dakota agriculture will find this publication useful.



A special thanks to the producers, agribusiness personnel and extension agents who have provided data to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The ag statistics staff compile this data into a user-friendly format that is available to you in printed form or on the World Wide Web.

The purpose of the NDSU Extension Service is to "create learning partnerships that help adults and youth enhance lives and communities." We are proud to be involved in this partnership

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Anderson".

Sharon D. Anderson, Director
NDSU Extension Service

NDSU**NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

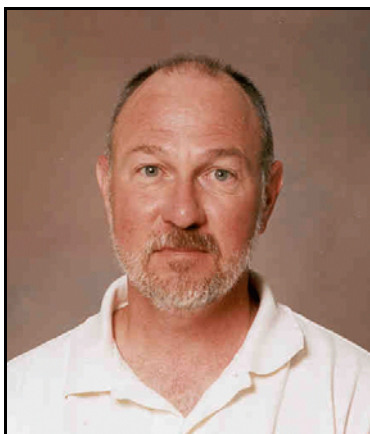
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Agricultural Experiment Station
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The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station is pleased to cooperate in bringing to you the 2003 "*North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*" issue. This annual statistical summary is an invaluable source of information about North Dakota agriculture.

American agriculture is an unqualified success story, particularly given the profound changes occurring in the industry. These changes are being driven by a tremendous expansion of scientific and technical knowledge. Investments by our food and fiber system in research and education over the past 100 years have led to unparalleled production. The scientists and staff at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station are proud of the role they play in the nation's agricultural sector.



As we continue research-based advances and prioritize our research portfolio, it becomes more imperative that accurate crop and livestock production data are readily available. It is with publications like the "*North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*" that some of our information is disseminated in a useful and accurate fashion. On behalf of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, I am pleased to help bring this edition to you and hope that 2003 is a successful year for all sectors of the agricultural economy of the state!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Grafton".

Kenneth F. Grafton, Director
ND Agricultural Experiment Station